Greet Van den Berghe

The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine proudly awards this citation of Honorary Membership to Professor Greet Van den Berghe for her outstanding contribution to research in critically-ill patients.
Greet Van den Berghe received her MD from the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) in 1985, graduating with highest honours. After an Anæsthesiology fellowship in Leuven (1985-1989), she obtained her Intensivist graduation in 1991, also in Leuven. In between she followed a Postgraduate Course in Biostatistics, at the School for Community and Health Care, Catholic University of Leuven. Greet immediately joined the University Hospital of Leuven, where she is Head of the Department of Intensive Care Medicine since 2002 and Head of Department of Acute Medical Science since 2005.

Greet Van den Berghe is also highly implicated in academic aspects. She obtained her PhD at the Catholic University of Leuven in 1994 with a doctoral thesis entitled "Dopamine and Pituitary Hormones in Critical Illness" and, since 1995, is Professor of Medicine. She was invited as Visiting Professor to many international universities.

The contribution of Greet Van den Berghe to research in critically-ill patients is really exceptional. She has published more than 250 peer-reviewed original papers, including several in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, in *JAMA* and in *The Lancet*. Her papers received more than 13,000 citations in total and she has 23 papers that are cited more than 100 times each. As a result, her index is now up to 51.

Greet's research has mostly focused on endocrinology, nutrition and organ dysfunction. She is mostly known for having demonstrated the endocrinologic effects of dopamine, the impact of glucose control and insulin on outcome and organ function. During her outstanding career, she was able to go back and forth from bench to bedside, testing and developing ideas in the laboratory, and then applying these in large-scale randomised trials in critically-ill adults, as well as in children, and then back in the lab to further evaluate hypotheses raised by findings observed in the randomised trials.

Greet Van den Berghe has established herself as a leader in her field. When someone mentions "glucose control or insulin therapy in the critically-ill", the name that immediately jumps to mind is Greet Van den Berghe. The results of the trials she lead on tight glucose control may not be applicable in every intensive care unit around the globe, but she repeatedly showed that this intervention can be effective in the condition it was performed. More recently she also focused her research on nutrition and on cortisol metabolism in the critically-ill.

Greet Van den Berghe is also an outstanding speaker. She is invited to many congresses and symposia throughout the world, including those of the key Societies in Intensive Care, Anæsthesiology and Endocrinology. But more importantly, everyone who ever listened to one of her talks was fascinated by her outstanding teaching capabilities.

Last, but not least, Greet is the first woman to receive this recognition from our Society. She was able to conduct her extraordinary career jointly with a rich family life, at a time when access to practice and research in the field of intensive care was markedly dominated by males.

Greet Van den Berghe already has a tremendous list of achievements and honours. I am privileged to be able to present her with another one - with this richly deserved recognition of her service to intensive care medicine.

DANIEL DE BACKER
ESICM President-elect